

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 remain pending in the present application.

In the Office Action of July 11, 2005, the Examiner required Applicant to elect one of Group I, drawn to claims 1-6 and 11-14, Group II, drawn to claims 7-10, and Group III, drawn to claim 15. Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement for at least the following reasons.

Section 803 of the M.P.E.P. provides that a requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions is proper only if there would be a serious burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that there would not be a serious burden for the Examiner to examine all of the claims currently pending in the present application.

Applicant notes that only 15 claims are currently pending in the present application, three of which are independent. Further, since independent claim 15 includes all of the features recited in independent claim 7, separate searches would not be required for claims of groups II and III.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that the search required to perform a proper examination of each of Groups I-III is largely co-extensive.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's restriction requirement is improper, and requests withdrawal of the requirement.

Nevertheless, in order to be fully responsive, Applicant has elected to prosecute, with traverse, Group I, drawn to claims 1-6 and 11-14, in the event that the Examiner chooses not to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

P24117.A03

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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August 4, 2005  
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